

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 505

By Trail

A RESOLUTION To honor the memory of Mr. John B. Pittard of Murfreesboro.

WHEREAS, The members of this General Assembly were greatly saddened to learn of the passing of Mr. John B. Pittard, longtime Murfreesboro City Councilman and former Vice-Mayor of that fair city; and

WHEREAS, John Pittard was an exemplary public servant and consummate professional who worked assiduously to improve the quality of life for his fellow citizens in numerous capacities; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Pittard was renowned among his fellow citizens as a man of immense integrity and honesty, who selflessly labored to ensure that the needs and concerns of Murfreesboro and its citizens were adequately addressed; and

WHEREAS, John was the son of Mabel Baxter Pittard and the late Dr. Homer P. Pittard, both of whom dedicated their lives to education and public service; and

WHEREAS, He attended Hobgood Elementary School and graduated from Murfreesboro Central High School; following his graduation from Middle Tennessee State University, Mr. Pittard earned his law degree from the University of Tennessee School of Law; and

WHEREAS, A tireless supporter and advocate for the people of his community as Councilman, Mr. Pittard often put his law practice and private life on hold to deal with city issues, often spending hours poring over documents, talking to residents, grappling with the pros and cons and, finally, voicing his opinion and firmly voting his conviction; and

WHEREAS, He was first elected to the Murfreesboro City Council in 1982; during his illustrious tenure, he also served as Vice-Mayor from 1998 until his resignation from the Council on July 2, 2001; and

WHEREAS, A strong proponent of education, John Pittard brought innovation to Murfreesboro City Schools as a member of the School Board, as illustrated by his support of Cason Lane Academy as a K-8 school using the year-round school calendar and the Paideia concept of learning, in which children share critical thinking skills; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Pittard's unremitting dedication to his community earned him the universal respect and admiration of his peers on the Council and the good people of Murfreesboro; his reelection to the council for four additional terms can be largely attributed to the fact that people trusted and respected him; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Pittard served with acumen as a member of the Murfreesboro City School Board, the Water and Sewer Board, the Historic Zoning Commission, the Planning Commission and the Linebaugh Library Board; during his outstanding tenure in each of these positions, he earned the respect of his constituents and colleagues alike for the peerless quality of his work and his devotion to duty as a public servant; and

WHEREAS, Murfreesboro Mayor Richard Reeves paid has homage to Mr. Pittard and his bountiful life by saying: "of all the people I've served with, John Pittard is the most conscientious person I've ever served with"; and

WHEREAS, City Attorney Tom Reed called John Pittard "a fine person who seemed to engender the confidence of the people because of his integrity and honesty. He was a very thoughtful person who always tried to do what was right"; and

WHEREAS, In addition to his voluminous contributions to his community, John Pittard had formerly served as City Judge for the City of Eagleville, and most recently had served as a Staff Attorney for the City of Murfreesboro; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Pittard was deeply devoted to his family, and he always endeavored to remain true to family values of the highest order; and

WHEREAS, John Pittard's numerous accomplishments aside, he was most appreciative of the love and support of his devoted wife, Janice; and their three loving daughters, Emily, Mary and Sarah; and

WHEREAS, He evinced his devout religious faith as a member of the Northside Baptist Church; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Pittard leaves behind an indelible legacy of integrity and probity in public life, compassion and loyalty in private life and diligence and dedication in all his chosen endeavors; and

WHEREAS, It is fitting that this General Assembly should pause to remember the bountiful life of this exceptional public servant and human being; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED SECOND GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, That we honor the memory of Mr. John B. Pittard, reflecting fondly upon his impeccable character, his exemplary service as a community leader and his stalwart commitment to living the examined life with courage and conviction.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That we express our sympathy and offer our condolences to the family and friends of Mr. Pittard.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.